

### REMARKS

Applicants submit that by the present Amendment and Remarks, this application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. Specifically, the only rejected claims have been cancelled and the only remaining claims, claims 1 and 3 through 5 have been allowed. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, and favorable consideration, are respectfully solicited pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

For completeness, Applicants note that claims 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness predicated upon Merchant et al. In addition, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness predicated upon Merchant et al. in view of the acknowledged prior art. Each of the imposed rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been rendered moot by cancelling claims 6 through 10.

In summary, claims 1 and 3 through 5, the only remaining claims, have been allowed. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, and favorable consideration, are solicited pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

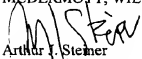
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any

09/779,565

excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

  
Arthur J. Steiner  
Registration No. 26,106

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
(202) 756-8000 AJS:ntb  
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087  
Date: August 5, 2003